

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	[REDACTED]	25X1
SUBJECT	Change in Security Search Procedure on Merchant Ships	DATE DISTR.	16 April 1953	
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1. As a result of complaints from sea-going personnel of the Polish Merchant Marine about thefts of personal effects from their cabins during the security searches by the Military Border Guard (WOP), the searches were modified in mid-January.
2. The ship is now searched simultaneously by two teams, one of which checks the crew and searches the cabins, while the other searches the remaining parts of the ship.
3. When the ship is to leave port, and the workers have left and the vessel is reported to be ready to put to sea, the crew is obliged to go to their cabins and wait for the security check. The check is conducted by an officer accompanied by one or two soldiers. The officer is handed the seaman's book by each member of the crew and compares it with the crew list. Meanwhile, the cabin is searched by the soldiers. When the search is completed, the owner of the cabin is obliged to remain in it until he hears the signal announcing the completion of the search on the ship.
4. When the ship arrives at the port the procedure is similar, with the exception that each member of the crew is handed his seaman's book by the officer, who obtains it from the ship's captain. The officer then frequently instructs the customs official accompanying him to carry out a personal search. It is the task of the customs official only to fulfill customs procedure in the event when the WOP officer draws his attention to objects which in the officer's opinion are liable to duty.
5. This new system prevents thefts by WOP soldiers and is much quicker. It is reported that Polish ships [REDACTED] are searched much more thoroughly than ships sailing to and from Continental ports.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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